



**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
ANSTEY VILLAGE HALL
24TH MAY 2021 AT 7PM**

Present: Andrew Marchant
Simon Bagnall
David House
David Oxley
Amanda Parker
Jan Pledger

Members of the Public: Jenny and Gus Goymour
Kate Oxley
Tony Pledger

District/ County Councillor: None present, see 38.1 below.

Officer present: Caroline Jones (Clerk)

The chairman welcomed councillors and a members of the public to the AGM Meeting and advised attendees to wear masks unless they are speaking and remain seated, report any covid symptoms.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from PC Leon De Bruyn, CC Jeff Jones (to keep attendance numbers to a minimum during COVID-19) and DC Peter Boylan who was working.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST None Received.

3. MINUTES FROM THE LAST MEEING HELD ON 20th April 2020

The minutes were approved and signed as a correct record of the meeting held on 20th April 2020.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2020-21

I make no apologies that this report is un-virtually similar to last year's report from our cancelled annual village meeting.

Thank you for either attending our village meeting or for downloading this and I hope that in this extraordinary spring you, your friends and families are all keeping well and are managing to cope with this very different new world that we found ourselves in amid the Covid 19 virus pandemic.

During the last 12 months of lockdown and short-lived freedom it has been desperate time for many, living in cramped accommodation with difficult situations, whether young energetic children who don't understand this strange change, to the teenagers who should have been experiencing a hugely memorable formative year, which now has been taken from them. Not forgetting those who may have lost someone close to them.

Fortunately for most of us in Anstey, this doesn't apply to us, we are hugely privileged to live in such a fabulous village and area, we have glorious countryside to take our exercise in, experiencing all that spring offers, from cowslips, primroses, dog violets and orchids growing in the meadows and hedgerows to the bluebells carpeting the woodland with their heady perfume and dizzying haze.

We also are so very lucky to have so many kind and caring people living in our community, no names mentioned as I wouldn't like to leave anyone out, but the arranging of a helpline for any suffered under lockdown, the fetching of prescriptions and food, picking up pet food etc etc, we are truly blessed to live here in Anstey.



I would like to express my thanks to my fellow councillors for their invaluable attendance and input to Parish council Zoom meetings, some slightly more understanding of technology than others !!

Also, especially thanks to Caroline Jones our Parish clerk as always for handling the ever-increasing workload and for the dedication and time she puts into making sure the Parish council meetings and its responsibilities run smoothly and efficiently,

Our gratitude also to our local police team who when time permits attend our PC meetings otherwise sending us updates on what police input and crime is occurring locally, which thankfully up to now is very little. We have a new contact now, Leon du Bruyn who has been very helpful with our reports and has now set up a local village forum which covers many local villages where we can share our experiences of local policing issues.

The present Councillor for our Braughing ward is Peter Boylan who along with District Councillor Jeff Jones, who we congratulate on being re-elected, attend our Parish Council meetings either in person or via Zoom when time permits, and we thank them both for their time and assistance with any local issues that we may have concerns about.

With another all-too-common wet winter we have been fortunate that not too many road repairs have been required, but I can note that after over 3 years of complaining and pestering and with Jeff's help, today the flood issues repairs along the B1368 at Silkmead are being started and the ditches on both sides are being cleared...so fingers crossed this dangerous reoccurring situation will be resolved.

We have had various planning applications to consider throughout the year and I hope we have responded to them in a way that villagers would expect, although we do have historic issues with the planning department either not responding in a timely fashion to concerns put forward and causing greater problems because of these delays. We have been assured by head of the planning department that she would be in touch with a response three weeks ago.... and we did hear from her this afternoon!!

During the year it was commented on that the posts and chain around the War Memorial were in need of replacement/repair and whilst we as a Parish Council were ready to arrange this, David House kindly offered to remove the existing fencing and replace with new steel park fencing, which I hope you agree looks very smart and we thank David for doing this.

Anstey Quarry business owners are getting closer to being prosecuted and we still await the outcome and to see what the future holds for the site.

The village Hall committee have now installed Broadband which should make it a better venue for the Parish Council to use, although we are yet to try it out!! There has also been constant work going on throughout the last year although not many functions, and I would like to thank the hall committee for their continued hard work in keeping this village asset vibrant and fit for purpose and the future.

As always, I would like to thank David Moule for his help in keeping the village litter free.

Our thanks also go out again to the fair committee who have had an easy year this year and we cannot wait to welcome the village fair back to its position in the annual diary.

I would also like to thank John and Patricia Hamilton for their past production of the newsletter, they have now handed the quill to Dave Oxley who is doing his best to produce Anstey's version of Country Life, which we thank him for.

I have just dropped off to John and Patricia two rose bushes as a small token of the village's thanks for the time and energy that they have put into producing the newsletter over the years.



The village link continues to expand and is a great asset and again we thank Sarah Cruise for her ongoing help in keeping this going.

Our thanks also go yet again to Paul Walton for the help doing our internal auditing which is much appreciated, unfortunately this will be the last year that Paul can help with the audit so we are now looking for a competent individual who is willing to audit the Parish Council books, so if anyone would like to volunteer themselves, or someone that they know. They do not need to be formally qualified, just an understanding of book-keeping and we can help with the procedures required for auditing the other Parish Council business.

We on the Parish Council look forward to serving the villages' interests for the next year and are always open to any suggestions or ideas that anyone in the village may have to improve our living environment.

Thank you and please stay safe and well.

Andrew Marchant
Chairman of Anstey Parish Council

5. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

The AGM Statement of Accounts were discussed and will be uploaded to the Anstey Village Website. If there are any queries or questions, please direct them to the Clerk.

6. VILLAGE HALL AGM REPORT

For obvious reasons, there has been very little use of the village hall during the last year, other than a few hirings and use for meetings when regulation allowed. As many of the regular users of the hall are of an age that is more vulnerable to Covid, we have been in no hurry to restart our usual activities. The school has not been using the hall extensively, and are serving lunches in classrooms again, in order to minimise mixing between different groups of pupils.

We hope to restart table tennis, carpet bowls and yoga sessions in due course, possibly not until September, depending on the views of both coaches and participants, and the situation in terms of Covid cases. Social activities, such as the Film Club, will definitely not start until September at the earliest, as there is normally a lull during the summer months.

We have been lucky enough to have received three government grants during the last year. The first £10 000, awarded in May 2020, is recorded on the accounts for the 2020-21 financial year. A second grant of £10 240 was received in April this year, and a third grant of £8000 in May. The Village Hall has obviously had fixed costs for electricity, water, insurance, fire protection, broadband etc. to cover with no opportunity to fundraise, and before Covid appeared we had already decided to have the floor sanded and resealed in the spring of 2020. However, as government support has been so generous, and in recognition of the fact that the Village Hall committee in normal years plays an active part in raising money for other village organisations, especially through support for Anstey Fair, we decided to offer £4000 of the grant money to the Anstey Fair Committee, to be distributed to various village organisations, and £1000 to the Parish Council as a contribution towards planned improvements to the Recreation Ground. The remainder of the grant money will be used to maintain the hall and to make further improvements to the building and car park.

We very much look forward to hall once again becoming a busy and well used resource for the community.

Kate Oxley, Chair of Village Hall Committee. May 2021



7. Open Forum

Grants for the playing fields were discussed, unfortunately the Parish Council had been unsuccessful on the past two grant applications made. It was agreed to progress the small roundabout without the provision of any grant, using Parish Council funds and the kind Village Hall Committee donation of £1,000.

A suggestion for small goalposts on the recreational field was suggested and it was agreed to purchase, clerk to investigate.

The River Quinn trees are encroaching into the recreational area.
The Parish Council will take them back.
It was agreed that the tree by the skateboard ramp should remain untouched.

Meeting closed at 7.53pm.

Signed _____

Date: _____ (Page 3 of 3)

draft